

NEIGHBORHOOD CORNER



Sunrise Vue Neighborhood is awarded a Neighborhood Matching Grant, Oct. 2005.

NEW PARKS PROJECTS

In accordance with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the Redmond Parks and Recreation Department has successfully completed many projects and upgrades in 2005 and is under design and construction for several others.

Maintaining the historical character of the former "Gateway Grove Resort," there are play "cabins", a "boathouse" covered area, swings, slides and a "rock climbing" wall at Idylwood Beach Park's new play area. The next phase of the park will include picnic shelter(s) and sand volleyball courts.

Another new improvement is the lighted softball field (Field One) at Grass Lawn Park, renovated using synthetic turf for the fields. New directional lighting was also added to reduce glare and light spill into surrounding neighborhoods, and tennis courts were re-surfaced. Parks Planning is currently in the initial design stage for Phase III at Grass Lawn, which will include additional parking, new restroom and maintenance area, community meeting

space and upgraded tot lot and basketball courts. Construction is scheduled for 2006.

Old Redmond School House Community Center (ORSCC) has had many renovations over the past year; new exterior paint and a new gym floor are just a few. Future plans include interior remodeling to accommodate new art programs, and upgraded kitchen and meeting rooms to accommodate the need for community rental space.

At Hartman Park, Fields 5 and 6 are also being renovated with new surfacing and "full cutoff" floodlighting to maximize playing time and minimize glare. Two softball/baseball fields with a soccer field overlay are included and will be available day and evening, year round.

A major portion of the Evans Creek Trail is open for public use from NE 95th Street to Perrigo Community Park. A ribbon cutting ceremony occurred on June 4 in celebration of National Trails Day. The rest of the trail south to Union Hill Road is under construction and will be opened in early 2006.

The Trail at Bear Creek Shopping Center is in final design phase with construction planned for 2006. This trail will provide a paved multi-use corridor from Union Hill Road south to Redmond Way. There is a new intersection light for trail users to cross Redmond Way and access the existing trail that arcs around Town Center and connects to the Sammamish River Trail. The Sammamish River Trail has connections to the East Lake Sammamish Trail, Bike 520 Trail, Bridle Crest Trail, Redmond/Puget Power Trail, Tolt Pipeline Trail, and Burke Gilman Trail. For information, contact Linda Gorremans, Park Planner, at 425-556-2328.

Replacement of the logs in the Adair House at Anderson Park is planned for early 2006. The improvements will honor

the historic significance of the cabins and enhance public use.

During the next several months, the Parks Board and City staff will be working with the Mayor and City Council to study feasibility of a future Park Bond. But, there is more work to be done. If you are interested in more information about the Parks Department's future plans or want more information about a future Park Bond, please contact Timothy Cox, Parks Planning Manager at 425-556-2334 or Jean Rice, Parks Management Analyst at 425-556-2378.

You are invited to attend the Park Board meetings held the first Thursday of every month at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC). We are currently looking for volunteers to serve on the Park Board. Additionally, the Redmond Trails Commission meets the last Wednesday of every month at ORSCC. All meetings are open to the public.

Viewpoint Neighborhood

Residents of Viewpoint neighborhood will soon have a say in the future of their immediate community. The City's Neighborhoods Team will be underway with a plan update for the area. Residents will be asked to participate in open house and focus group discussions, become members of the citizen advisory committee (CAC), and to communicate with neighbors on topics of interest as defined by staff and the CAC. In preparation for the plan update, residents are asked to send their general thoughts to the Neighborhoods Team. This will assist staff, as they prepare for a variety of public events, in understanding residents' current and future needs. Please send an e-mail to neighborhoods@redmond.gov and include VIEWPOINT in the subject heading. We look forward to meeting you in the next several months.

North Redmond Update

Residents of North Redmond will soon finalize a plan to provide a vision and framework for their neighborhood's future, which includes policies and regulations that apply to improvements, amenities, and preservation throughout the next twenty years. North Redmond residents are invited to share their comments with the Redmond Planning Commission at a public hearing, November 16, 7 pm, in the Public Safety building's Council Chambers.

In November and December, the North Redmond Neighborhood Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and City staff will present the recommended updates to the Redmond Planning Commission in study session open to the public. A public comment will be provided at the beginning of each session. The Commission will determine their consistency with citywide goals. City staff and CAC members will be present to assist with the process and offer the basis for each recommendation. The CAC recommendations represent over a year of discussions. Residents may also follow the Planning Commission and subsequent City Council hearings by watching Redmond Cable Television (RCTV) on Channel 21 & 75, or through web streaming at www.redmond.gov/aboutredmond/RCTV/rctv.asp. Questions and comments may be directed to the Neighborhoods Team at neighborhoods@redmond.gov

CAC Recommendations

Over the past year, members of the North Redmond neighborhood Citizen Advisory Committee developed recommendations for the update of neighborhood plan policies and regulations. Some of the items considered include:

- Connectivity – promoting vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian connections within the neighborhood and to surrounding areas through open space, trails, and easements among adjacent developments and preserved natural areas such as parks.
- Environmental Protection – preserving open space, vegetation, and trees. Emphaon Low Impact Development
- standards and the use of compost amended soils.
- Community Gathering Spaces – in addition to park lands, neighborhood commercial amenities will provide the “place” through which the community may come together. Such gathering places include Theno’s Corner, and A Village Square, in addition to the developing activities at the corner of NE 128th St. and Avondale Road NE.
- Parks – expansion and additional

acquisition help to promote the identity of the North Redmond neighborhood in a rural, park-like setting

- Housing – mixture of styles, sizes, and choices enable diversity among the residents including age, income levels, and family sizes.

To learn more, please visit the North Redmond neighborhood web pages at www.redmond.gov/intheworks/northredmond



Overlake Neighborhood

The Overlake Neighborhood Plan was last updated in 1999. Several of the topics addressed by the Citizens Committee that worked on this Plan concerned two portions of the neighborhood:

- Employment Area, located along the SR-520 corridor, and home to Microsoft, Nintendo and other companies, and
- Shopping & Mixed Use Area, bounded generally by 148th Avenue NE, SR 520 and Bel-Red Road, where Sears, Safeway and Group Health are located.

Currently, 33,000 people work in these two areas, and roughly 1,600 people live here. Over the next 20 years, this area is planned to continue as one of Redmond's primary locations for growth.

The Overlake Neighborhood Plan describes a long-term vision for the Employment Area, which is to continue as a major corporate and advanced technology hub while maintaining its campus-like feel. The long-term vision for the Shopping & Mixed Use Area is to evolve it as a vibrant gathering place for people, with a variety of stores and eateries that line the streets as part of mixed-use, multi-story developments. There would be attractive places to live nearby and walkways and bike paths to connect points of interest.

Since adoption of the plan, development has proceeded consistent with the vision for the employment area. Progress on the vision for the shopping and mixed use area has been slower.

The City will soon begin work on a study focused on these two portions of Overlake, which will include identifying potential barriers and opportunities to carrying out the adopted vision and extending the Plan from the current horizon year of 2012 through to 2030.

If residents have thoughts regarding plans for Overlake, please contact Lori Peckol at lpeckol@redmond.gov or 425-556-2411.

Redmond's Comprehensive Plan

Earlier this year, the City completed a major, 10-year review and update of Redmond's Comprehensive Plan. Amendments to Redmond's development regulations and standards are needed to enable the City to carry out the updated policies.

In September, the Planning Commission began reviewing the first set of amendments, now addressing proposed updates to zoning and design standards that guide development in the Downtown. The purpose of these amendments is primarily to make the regulations for the Downtown consistent with the recently adopted policies but also to address issues and changes in circumstances since the last major update to these regulations. Included are:

- Updates to support the Downtown as one of Redmond's primary locations for residential development, including allowing residences on the ground floor of buildings in more locations and eliminating the requirement for applicants to purchase transfer of development rights to achieve higher residential densities.
- New design standards: adjacent to the BNSF railroad right-of-way, adjacent to the Sammamish River and Bear Creek, in Perrigo's Plat, and in existing Downtown shopping centers. Design standards are also proposed to apply when residences are located on the ground floor of new buildings.
- Currently, building height in the Downtown is controlled by the number of floors and total height in feet. Updates would eliminate "feet" as one of the two controlling factors and would control building height by the number of floors, only. The purpose of this amendment is to encourage more creativity in building design, such as more variation in rooflines from building to building.
- Types of uses permitted is proposed, including adding advanced technology uses, such as research and development firms, in most of the Downtown, adding certain small retail businesses in the bungalows

History is Happening

History is happening in Redmond! Please join the Redmond Historical Society at its regular meetings on the second Saturday of every month except in July, August and December. Time – 10:30-12:00, Location – The Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center, 16600 NE 80th Street

Each month, speakers lecture on topics of special interest to Redmond and surrounding residents. To receive the monthly newsletter, contact Society president Judy Lang at 425-885-2919 or redmondhistory@msn.com. Historic walking tour brochures, books, and note cards are available in our office, which is open Monday through Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Visit our website at www.redmondhistory.org for more information.

in Perrigo's Plat, and prohibiting drive-thru uses in additional Downtown locations.

The Planning Commission is continuing to encourage public comment. More information is at www.redmond.gov/insidcityhall/boards/planning_agenda.asp or 425-556-2421. For proposed Downtown Development Guide amendments, contact Gary Lee at 425-556-2418 or glee@redmond.gov.

Other Happenings

In addition to the 10-year major Comprehensive Plan reviews and updates, the City carries out an annual update of the Comprehensive Plan.

Proposals scheduled for Planning Commission review and recommendation to City Council for 2005 and the first quarter of 2006 include the following City initiated amendments:

- 1) updates to the North Redmond and Education Hill Neighborhood Plans (see article on page 33 for additional information on North Redmond)
- 2) update of the City's stream map
- 3) proposal to designate Overlake Center as an Urban Center,
- 4) proposed map of Citywide gateways and public view corridors.

The following private-sector requests are also scheduled for Planning Commission review during this period:

- 1) change allowed land uses and/or densities for certain properties in the Bear Creek, Education Hill, and North Redmond neighborhoods,
- 2) more types of businesses at WestPark Business Center.

There are 16 proposals in the 2005-06 package including 11 proposed amendments initiated by the City and five requests from the private sector. Information on proposed amendments is available on the City's website at www.redmond.gov/compplanupdate or by contacting Lori Peckol at 425-556-2411 or lpeckol@redmond.gov.

The Plant Lady



By Teresa Kluver, Park Operations Supervisor

located on Capitol Hill, was the gardening venue for Ciscoe Morris for many years. The plant materials are unique and often at a homeowner scale. The University of Washington main campus also has some wonderful plantings around the individual buildings.

Private gardens may seem a little less available for viewing, but you may be surprised. I am a member of the Northwest Perennial Alliance. Many of the members of this group open their gardens for viewing by other members. A detailed booklet is published each year providing dates, directions, and garden descriptions. What a treasure. In addition, many large private gardens are open to the public on specific weekends of each year. A little research may lead you to a full season worth of garden viewing. Check out these resources to learn more:

- The Northwest Gardener's Resource Directory by Stephanie Feeney is a great book listing nurseries, public gardens, garden groups, plant sales and other happenings in Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia.
- The web site for the Center for Urban Horticulture is www.depts.washington.edu/urbhort/. This web site includes a vast amount of information and links to even more information.

Don't forget to take notes and snap photos during your garden tours. Great plant combinations, unique garden art, or just something you may want to mimic is easier done from a photo or drawing than from memory.

Happy Gardening.

There are lots of ways to get ideas for your own yard. You can visit nurseries, read gardening magazines, or hire a landscape designer. All of these methods will work. However, my favorite way to get new ideas and inspirations is to visit other gardens, both private and public, and observe how others use plant materials, incorporate water features, use garden structures and generally put the landscape together.

The Puget Sound area provides many opportunities for touring gardens. Often guides or homeowners are available to answer questions, give history, and share successes and failures of their garden development or transformation.

Where to get ideas

Public parks and gardens are a great source of ideas. Although generally larger in scale, think about smaller areas as possible vignettes placed in your own landscape. Sign up for a tour of the Washington Park Arboretum or the Bellevue Botanical Garden to get more in-depth knowledge of the specific plants and their requirements. Visit the Center for Urban Horticulture and view the demonstration gardens surrounding the buildings. Plant lists are available from the Miller Library at the Center or often in a kiosk nearby.

College campuses often are artfully planted and well maintained. Seattle University,

